

EXHIBIT “I”

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, COUNTY OF LUZERNE

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Docket No: MJ-11104-NT-0000015-2019

Case Filed: 1/4/2019

v.

Docket No: MJ-11104-NT-0000023-2019

Case Filed: 1/9/2019

Douglas Bruce (note corrected name)

MOTION TO DISMISS

These misfiled tickets was brought by a non-attorney “code official” whose name is not printed on a summons or citation. It relates to two different citation numbers dated the same date. BRUCE received four copies of the two citations on the two docket numbers. They refer to a magistrate Kravitz. BRUCE moves this case be heard by a judge. There is no evidence the citations or docket numbers have been consolidated.

The summons refers to a “SUMMARY CASE NON-TRAFFIC.” The word “summary” means abbreviated, and thus not entitled to full due process of law. That is an improper process for a threatened demolition of private property. BRUCE moves he be accorded full due process of law according to the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the U. S. Constitution. Article VI, containing the Supremacy Clause, orders that “..the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.” That means any proceeding in this matter must comply fully with the federal Constitution. This proceeding is unworthy of a banana republic.

The documents cite as their authority local ordinance 110, section 1. See Exhibit 1, a copy of 110. Section 101.3 says its “intent” is that “structures and premises...shall be altered or repaired to provide a minimum level of health and safety...” The words “altered or repaired” do not mean demolished. Section 110 lets “code official judgment” determine a crime, a fine, and a penalty of demolition; that is arbitrary and capricious. A similar flaw is the personal judgment “that it is unreasonable to repair the structure.” BRUCE has been a real estate investor for 44 year this May; he may use his different judgment on that nebulous standard. The code does not provide clear objective standards of civil or criminal liability to an owner; that is unlawful.

The summons “requires” a signed plea of “guilty” or “not guilty.” But section 110 is a CIVIL, not a CRIMINAL ordinance. Further, any future “demolition” is threatened by Pittston and the plaintiff, NOT by BRUCE. BRUCE cannot lawfully be forced to pay a \$1,000 “fine”, or any amount, for non-action. Does plaintiff demand \$1,000, \$2,000, or \$4,000 in its four citations? Further, he cannot be “fined” before trial and final appeal. BRUCE is a former Deputy District Attorney and knows the proper process for what is a

crime, and how to charge a crime. No one can demand a plea before proper arraignment, advisement, and waiver of constitutional rights. It is hard to believe any government in 2019 America would not know and follow basic legal procedures.

BRUCE is also entitled to know the basis for the charge, and receive all discovery in the possession of plaintiff—documents; photos; witness name, contact data, and summary of personal knowledge; and any other information. The building is and has been empty and secured by boarding. It is not a crime to own an empty building. To demand a fine and guilty plea without proof of guilt for an undisclosed crime is stupid and unAmerican.

TO MAKE IT CLEAR, DOUGLAS BRUCE OBJECTS TO ANY DEMOLITION OR DAMAGE TO HIS PRIVATE PROPERTY AT 385 N. MAIN STREET IN PITTSTON. MY BUILDING IS BOARDED UP TO PREVENT INTERIOR ACCESS OR TRESPASS TO THE PROPERTY. THIS APPLIES TO ANYONE--GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE OR AGENT. THIS MEANS YOU.KEEP OUT!!!

WHEREFORE, Douglas Bruce moves that all citations and docket entries regarding this nonsense “case” be dismissed with prejudice. Your demolition laws are unconstitutional.

Submitted,



Douglas Bruce
Box 26018
Colorado Springs CO 80936
(719) 550-0010
taxcutter@msn.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I mailed a postage-paid copy of this MOTION... on January 17, 2019 to:

Code Official
35 Broad Street
Pittston PA 18640



Douglas Bruce

post a placard of condemnation on the *premises* and order the structure closed up so as not to be an attractive nuisance. Upon failure of the *owner* to close up the *premises* within the time specified in the order, the *code official* shall cause the *premises* to be closed and secured through any available public agency or by contract or arrangement by private persons and the cost thereof shall be charged against the real estate upon which the structure is located and shall be a lien upon such real estate and may be collected by any other legal resource.

108.2.1 Authority to disconnect service utilities. The *code official* shall have the authority to authorize disconnection of utility service to the building, structure or system regulated by this code and the referenced codes and standards set forth in Section 102.7 in case of emergency where necessary to eliminate an immediate hazard to life or property or when such utility connection has been made without approval. The *code official* shall notify the serving utility and, whenever possible, the *owner* and *occupant* of the building, structure or service system of the decision to disconnect prior to taking such action. If not notified prior to disconnection the *owner* or *occupant* of the building structure or service system shall be notified in writing as soon as practical thereafter.

108.3 Notice. Whenever the *code official* has condemned a structure or equipment under the provisions of this section, notice shall be posted in a conspicuous place in or about the structure affected by such notice and served on the *owner* or the person or persons responsible for the structure or equipment in accordance with Section 107.3. If the notice pertains to equipment, it shall also be placed on the condemned equipment. The notice shall be in the form prescribed in Section 107.2.

108.4 Placarding. Upon failure of the *owner* or person responsible to comply with the notice provisions within the time given, the *code official* shall post on the *premises* or on defective equipment a placard bearing the word "Condemned" and a statement of the penalties provided for occupying the *premises*, operating the equipment or removing the placard.

108.4.1 Placard removal. The *code official* shall remove the condemnation placard whenever the defect or defects upon which the condemnation and placarding action were based have been eliminated. Any person who defaces or removes a condemnation placard without the approval of the *code official* shall be subject to the penalties provided by this code.

108.5 Prohibited occupancy. Any occupied structure condemned and placarded by the *code official* shall be vacated as ordered by the *code official*. Any person who shall occupy a placarded *premises* or shall operate placarded equipment, and any *owner* or any person responsible for the *premises* who shall let anyone occupy a placarded *premises* or operate placarded equipment shall be liable for the penalties provided by this code.

108.6 Abatement methods. The *owner*, *operator* or *occupant* of a building, *premises* or equipment deemed unsafe by the *code official* shall abate or cause to be abated or corrected such unsafe conditions either by repair, rehabilitation, demolition or other approved corrective action.

108.7 Record. The *code official* shall cause a report to be filed on an unsafe condition. The report shall state the *occupancy* of the structure and the nature of the unsafe condition.

SECTION 109 EMERGENCY MEASURES

109.1 Imminent danger. When, in the opinion of the *code official*, there is *imminent danger* of failure or collapse of a building or structure which endangers life, or when any structure or part of a structure has fallen and life is endangered by the occupation of the structure, or when there is actual or potential danger to the building *occupants* or those in the proximity of any structure because of explosives, explosive fumes or vapors or the presence of toxic fumes, gases or materials, or operation of defective or dangerous equipment, the *code official* is hereby authorized and empowered to order and require the *occupants* to vacate the *premises* forthwith. The *code official* shall cause to be posted at each entrance to such structure a notice reading as follows: "This Structure Is Unsafe and Its Occupancy Has Been Prohibited by the Code Official." It shall be unlawful for any person to enter such structure except for the purpose of securing the structure, making the required repairs, removing the hazardous condition or of demolishing the same.

109.2 Temporary safeguards. Notwithstanding other provisions of this code, whenever, in the opinion of the *code official*, there is *imminent danger* due to an unsafe condition, the *code official* shall order the necessary work to be done, including the boarding up of openings, to render such structure temporarily safe whether or not the legal procedure herein described has been instituted, and shall cause such other action to be taken as the *code official* deems necessary to meet such emergency.

109.3 Closing streets. When necessary for public safety, the *code official* shall temporarily close structures and close, or order the authority having jurisdiction to close, sidewalks, streets, *public ways* and places adjacent to unsafe structures, and prohibit the same from being utilized.

109.4 Emergency repairs. For the purposes of this section, the *code official* shall employ the necessary labor and materials to perform the required work as expeditiously as possible.

109.5 Costs of emergency repairs. Costs incurred in the performance of emergency work shall be paid by the jurisdiction. The legal counsel of the jurisdiction shall institute appropriate action against the *owner* of the *premises* where the unsafe structure is or was located for the recovery of such costs.

109.6 Hearing. Any person ordered to take emergency measures shall comply with such order forthwith. Any affected person shall thereafter, upon petition directed to the appeals board, be afforded a hearing as described in this code.

SECTION 110 DEMOLITION

110.1 General. The *code official* shall order the *owner* of any *premises* upon which is located any structure, which in the *code official* judgment after review is so deteriorated or dilapidated or has become so out of repair as to be dangerous, unsafe, insanitary or otherwise unfit for human habitation or occu-

post a placard of condemnation on the *premises* and order the structure closed up so as not to be an attractive nuisance. Upon failure of the *owner* to close up the *premises* within the time specified in the order, the *code official* shall cause the *premises* to be closed and secured through any available public agency or by contract or arrangement by private persons and the cost thereof shall be charged against the real estate upon which the structure is located and shall be a lien upon such real estate and may be collected by any other legal resource.

108.2.1 Authority to disconnect service utilities. The *code official* shall have the authority to authorize disconnection of utility service to the building, structure or system regulated by this code and the referenced codes and standards set forth in Section 102.7 in case of emergency where necessary to eliminate an immediate hazard to life or property or when such utility connection has been made without approval. The *code official* shall notify the serving utility and, whenever possible, the *owner* and *occupant* of the building, structure or service system of the decision to disconnect prior to taking such action. If not notified prior to disconnection the *owner* or *occupant* of the building structure or service system shall be notified in writing as soon as practical thereafter.

108.3 Notice. Whenever the *code official* has condemned a structure or equipment under the provisions of this section, notice shall be posted in a conspicuous place in or about the structure affected by such notice and served on the *owner* or the person or persons responsible for the structure or equipment in accordance with Section 107.3. If the notice pertains to equipment, it shall also be placed on the condemned equipment. The notice shall be in the form prescribed in Section 107.2.

108.4 Placarding. Upon failure of the *owner* or person responsible to comply with the notice provisions within the time given, the *code official* shall post on the *premises* or on defective equipment a placard bearing the word "Condemned" and a statement of the penalties provided for occupying the *premises*, operating the equipment or removing the placard.

108.4.1 Placard removal. The *code official* shall remove the condemnation placard whenever the defect or defects upon which the condemnation and placarding action were based have been eliminated. Any person who defaces or removes a condemnation placard without the approval of the *code official* shall be subject to the penalties provided by this code.

108.5 Prohibited occupancy. Any occupied structure condemned and placarded by the *code official* shall be vacated as ordered by the *code official*. Any person who shall occupy a placarded *premises* or shall operate placarded equipment, and any *owner* or any person responsible for the *premises* who shall let anyone occupy a placarded *premises* or operate placarded equipment shall be liable for the penalties provided by this code.

108.6 Abatement methods. The *owner*, *operator* or *occupant* of a building, *premises* or equipment deemed unsafe by the *code official* shall abate or cause to be abated or corrected such unsafe conditions either by repair, rehabilitation, demolition or other approved corrective action.

108.7 Record. The *code official* shall cause a report to be filed on an unsafe condition. The report shall state the *occupancy* of the structure and the nature of the unsafe condition.

SECTION 109 EMERGENCY MEASURES

109.1 Imminent danger. When, in the opinion of the *code official*, there is *imminent danger* of failure or collapse of a building or structure which endangers life, or when any structure or part of a structure has fallen and life is endangered by the occupation of the structure, or when there is actual or potential danger to the building *occupants* or those in the proximity of any structure because of explosives, explosive fumes or vapors or the presence of toxic fumes, gases or materials, or operation of defective or dangerous equipment, the *code official* is hereby authorized and empowered to order and require the *occupants* to vacate the *premises* forthwith. The *code official* shall cause to be posted at each entrance to such structure a notice reading as follows: "This Structure Is Unsafe and Its Occupancy Has Been Prohibited by the Code Official." It shall be unlawful for any person to enter such structure except for the purpose of securing the structure, making the required repairs, removing the hazardous condition or of demolishing the same.

109.2 Temporary safeguards. Notwithstanding other provisions of this code, whenever, in the opinion of the *code official*, there is *imminent danger* due to an unsafe condition, the *code official* shall order the necessary work to be done, including the boarding up of openings, to render such structure temporarily safe, whether or not the legal procedure herein described has been instituted, and shall cause such other action to be taken as the *code official* deems necessary to meet such emergency.

109.3 Closing streets. When necessary for public safety, the *code official* shall temporarily close structures and close, or order the authority having jurisdiction to close, sidewalks, streets, *public ways* and places adjacent to unsafe structures, and prohibit the same from being utilized.

109.4 Emergency repairs. For the purposes of this section, the *code official* shall employ the necessary labor and materials to perform the required work as expeditiously as possible.

109.5 Costs of emergency repairs. Costs incurred in the performance of emergency work shall be paid by the jurisdiction. The legal counsel of the jurisdiction shall institute appropriate action against the *owner* of the *premises* where the unsafe structure is or was located for the recovery of such costs.

109.6 Hearing. Any person ordered to take emergency measures shall comply with such order forthwith. Any affected person shall thereafter, upon petition directed to the appeals board, be afforded a hearing as described in this code.

SECTION 110 DEMOLITION

110.1 General. The *code official* shall order the *owner* of any *premises* upon which is located any structure, which in the *code official* judgment after review is so deteriorated or dilapidated or has become so out of repair as to be dangerous, unsafe, insanitary or otherwise unfit for human habitation or occu-